

2020 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Action Required: VII

Reference:

1. We attach the handouts in connection with the press conference held in Paris on 22 December 1970 for the students who visited Hanoi.

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Attachment:

Two handouts, herewith.

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Date 17 Aug 82

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PARIS
22 DECEMBER 1970

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. NATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION DELEGATION RETURNS FROM
VIETNAM WITH DECLARATION OF PEACE...

This delegation of American students has just returned from Vietnam where we met with leaders representing all students from both North and South Vietnam. As a result of our discussions we have reached agreement on the terms for peace in Vietnam and we have declared that we are not at war.

Two concrete documents have emerged from our discussions with Vietnamese students. The first is a peace declaration by the National Union of Students in South Vietnam outlining the points that are necessary for peace in South Vietnam. This document was nearly confiscated in Vientiane, Laos, when secret police entered Doug Hostetter's hotel room and searched all of his belongings, photographing all documents and pictures. The peace declaration was removed before the police arrived and was consequently saved from confiscation.

The second document is a joint declaration of peace and solidarity, which was signed by all members of the American student delegation, representatives of the Vietnamese National Union of Students from North Vietnam, and the Liberation Student Union from South Vietnam.

Although precise contents of the declaration will not be released until a national youth conference the first weekend in February, we would like to announce now that all parties agreed the the most basic preconditions for peace are a commitment to the complete withdrawal of all U.S. forces, and withdrawal of support from the illegitimate Thieu-Ky-Khieu regime. These conditions must be met before peace, independence, self-determination, and sovereign neutrality can be restored to the people of South Vietnam.

We also agreed with the Vietnamese students that it is clear that Nixon does not intend to negotiate for peace, but is still trying to achieve a military victory. His most recent threats to resume the bombing of North Vietnam can only be seen as an escalation of the war and a continued perpetration of U.S. policies of death and destruction against the Vietnamese people.

Meanwhile, it is becoming clearer that Nixon's vietnamization plan is failing. Only the continued American presence in Vietnam is able to keep Vietnamese fighting Vietnamese and even now Saigon troops are deserting at an ever increasing rate of twelve thousand monthly. New broad-based city coalitions of students, journalists, women, workers, and religious groups are struggling to achieve their demands for immediate and

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total withdrawal of all U.S. forces and for the overthrow of the repressive Thieu-Ky-Khien regime.

General Eisenhower once said that the time will come when people will push aside their government and declare their own peace. Our recent trip to Vietnam was a first attempt in that direction. Other constituencies will be making trips to Vietnam in the future and will make similar peace declarations with their Vietnamese counter parts.

Our declarations from Vietnam will form the basis for a genuine people to people peace treaty, which will be proposed at a national conference of youth in early February. The Treaty will be the focus for an intensified Spring anti-war offensive to culminate in major demonstrations of civil disobedient disobedience and non-cooperative resistance across the United States on May 1, 1971.

We consider this first joint press conference and-V between American and Vietnamese people to be a historic event. We consider our collective commitment of peace to be the true reflection of sentiments of all our people and we will be working hard in the coming months to implement these feelings through a true and lasting peace with in Vietnam.

USA Peace Delegation

December 22, 1973

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The delegation, composed of fifteen people in all, was organized by the United States National Student Association in response to a mandate issued by the USNSA at its August congress. This mandate stipulated that NSA explore the possibilities of a negotiated "peace treaty" with Vietnamese students. In accord with that mandate, the following delegation was formed:

1. David Ifshin: President of the USNSA and former student body president of Syracuse University.
2. Jay Craven: Student body president of Boston University.
3. Douglas Hostetter: Student at the New School for Social Research (New York City). He has spent three years doing community development work in Central Vietnam; he speaks fluent Vietnamese.
4. Jim Doherty: Student body president of Wheeling College, Wheeling, West Virginia.
5. ~~Terry Cook: Student leader at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.~~
6. Rebecca Wilson: Last year's editor of the University of California student newspaper. (Santa Barbara)
7. Keith Parker: Student body president of Indiana University.
8. Joe Pichirallo: Last year's editor of the student newspaper at the University of California. (Berkeley)
9. Mark Raenick: Student body president of Case-Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

10. Mark Jeffers: Student body president of the University of New Hampshire.
11. Mike Eng: Councilman at the University of Hawaii.
12. Rick McPherson: Student body president of the University of Minnesota.
13. Tony Roman: Brooklyn College.
14. Ricardo Bertran: Bronx Community College. (Roman and Bertran representing the Puerto Rican Student Union).
15. Ron Eachus: Student Body president of the University of Oregon. (Eugene).

The delegates were chosen to represent a broad geographical distribution and political spectrum. The purpose of the trip was to meet with Vietnamese students of the North and South to discuss a peace proposal from various points of view; the objective was to begin at a low-level developmental stage without specific criteria or proposals. For that reason, the delegation took steps to meet with a broad spectrum of Vietnamese students. All arrangements for the trip were proceeding smoothly until the Saigon regime cabled their Washington hosts and stated that "Under no circumstances is David Ifshin to be issued a visa." From then on, Mr. Ifshin, president of the USNSA, received no cooperation from the South Vietnamese. Other members of the delegation were also blocked from obtaining visas to South Vietnam. (We here note that one of the original student delegates who was denied a visa was a Kent State student, David Chiles; he is also a Vietnam veteran. He was permitted by the Saigon regime to enter South Vietnam and wage war but was not allowed to enter with a "peace" delegation.

One member of the delegation, Doug Hostetter, did manage to get into South Vietnam. For eight days he met with the Vietnam National Student Union in Saigon. After his discussions in Saigon, he travelled to Vientiane, Laos and met with three other delegates. This group of four joined the main body of the delegation in Hanoi for eight days.

There was complete cooperation from the North Vietnamese concerning our trip and discussions with students. Eleven members of our delegation spent two weeks in North Vietnam, and the other four spent eight days in the North.